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**1962/10/23**

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 17364

Rec'd: October 23, 1962

5:09 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C DG/MR

FROM: Accra

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 690, October 23, 7 p.m.

CUBA

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Unable deliver President Kennedy's letter, address and SC resolution until 1800 October 23 when President Nkrumah received me for five minutes after Cabinet meeting.

Summary Nkrumah's comments: (1) This "very serious situation" which required "great patience"; (2) UK, USSR, and others would not permit search of ships; (3) UN should "send some people down to look around and find facts"; (4) Not problem of USSR, as I stated, but Cuba itself, which "didn't have to let Russians in"; (5) US also had missiles aimed at USSR. Nkrumah asked me acknowledge receipt documents which he would study carefully.

Principal Secretary of Ministry Foreign Affairs when briefed on issue earlier this morning expressed doubts about US policy, wondered why Cuba should not choose Socialism or Communism if it wished, though Guantanamo Base just as much threat as Soviet fishing harbor, asked what distinction there was between Soviet bases Cuba and NATO bases surrounding USSR. He expressed view world opinion would go against USG and pointed to British statement British ships would be protected by destroyers if necessary. Ghana desk officer for US also brought up question of "A66" attacks on British ships. Embassy officers said USG would not allow "A66" to launch attacks from US ports but could not be responsible for sorties from non-US territory. Also suggested British statement on protection their ships probably directed against "A66" rather than US quarantine.

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